

Reading Essentials and Study Guide

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Becoming a World Power, 1872-1917

Lesson 3 *New American Diplomacy*

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How are empires built?

Reading HELPDESK

Content Vocabulary

sphere of influence section of a country where a foreign nation enjoys special rights and powers

Open Door policy a policy that allowed each foreign nation in China to trade freely in the other nations' spheres of influence

dollar diplomacy a policy of joining the business interests of a country with its diplomatic interests abroad

guerrillas armed fighters who carry out surprise attacks

Academic Vocabulary

access freedom or ability to obtain or make use of

tension friction or opposition between groups

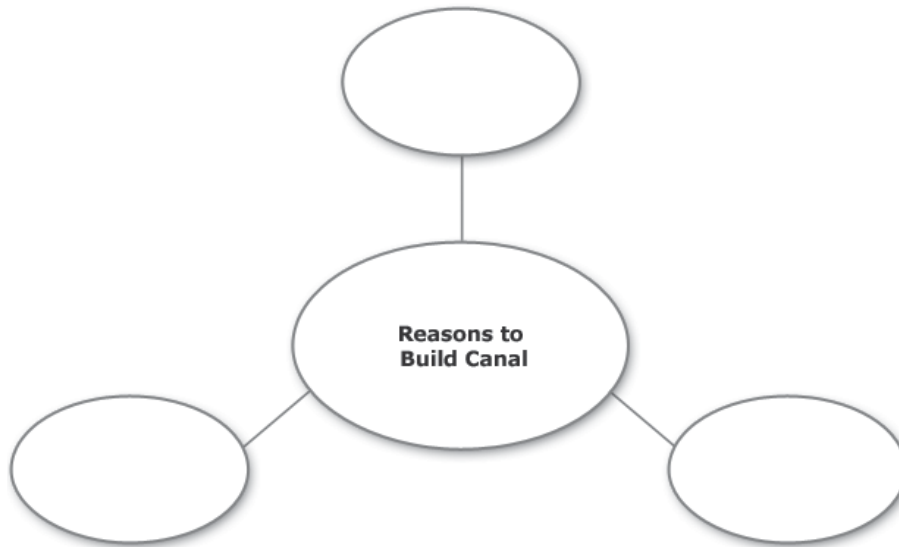
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TAKING NOTES: Organizing

ACTIVITY Complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list reasons the United States wanted a canal through Central America.



IT MATTERS BECAUSE...

The influence of the United States continued to expand into foreign countries. President Theodore Roosevelt mediated disagreements in Asia and Latin America. He also gained the Panama Canal Zone. Presidents Taft and Wilson increased U.S. trade and influence in Latin America.

American Diplomacy in Asia

GUIDING QUESTION Why did the United States want to eliminate spheres of influence in China?

In 1899 the United States was a major power in Asia. It had naval bases all across the Pacific. The United States Navy was then the world's third-largest navy. It could use U.S. power anywhere in East Asia when it operated from those bases. The nation's main interest in Asia was trade, not conquest. U.S. exports to China grew four times greater between 1895 and 1900. China bought only about two percent of U.S. exports. But the large Chinese markets excited U.S. business leaders. Leaders in the textile, oil, and steel industries were especially excited.

The Open Door Policy

In 1894 war began between China and Japan over Korea. Korea was very weak and relied greatly on China. Westerners were surprised when Japan easily defeated China's large military. The war showed that Japan had learned Western technology. It also showed that China was weaker than anyone had thought. China recognized Korea's independence in the peace treaty. China also gave Japan territory in Manchuria.

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The Russians were concerned about Japan's growing power. They did not want Japan to get the territory in Manchuria because it bordered Russia. Russia forced Japan to return the Manchurian territory it had received. France and Germany supported Russia. Then, in 1898, Russia demanded China rent the territory to Russia instead.

Leasing meant the territory would still belong to China, but a foreign government would have overall control. Soon Germany, France, and Britain also demanded "leaseholds" in China. Each leasehold became the center of a country's **sphere of influence**. This was an area where a foreign nation controlled economic development or growth.

U.S. politicians and businessmen worried about these events. President McKinley and Secretary of State John Hay both supported what they called an **Open Door policy**. This policy would allow all countries to trade with China.

In 1899 Hay asked countries with leaseholds in China to allow other nations to do business in their spheres of influence. Each nation said it accepted the Open Door policy but would not follow it unless all the others agreed. Hay then said that the United States expected all the other powers to uphold the policy.

The Boxer Rebellion

While foreign countries debated **access** to China's market, secret Chinese societies organized to fight foreign control and influence. Access is the right to use something. One secret group was the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists. Westerners called this group the Boxers. In 1900 the group decided to destroy both the foreigners and their Chinese Christian converts. They believed these people were hurting Chinese society.

The Boxers and some Chinese troops attacked foreign embassies in Peking (now Beijing) and Tientsin (now Tianjin). This was called the Boxer Rebellion. They killed more than 200 foreigners and took others prisoner. After the German ambassador to China was killed, eight nations—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States—became involved. Many nations came together to rescue the foreigners and end the rebellion.

During the crisis, Secretary of State John Hay worked with British diplomats to convince the other powers not to break up China. Hay convinced the participating powers to accept payment from China for damages caused by the rebellion. The powers agreed not to break up China into European-controlled colonies. The United States kept access to China's profitable trade in tea, spices, and silk and gained a larger market for its own goods.

☒ **PROGRESS CHECK**

Making Inferences What was the importance of the Open Door policy to the United States?

Roosevelt and Taft's Diplomacy

GUIDING QUESTION Was President Roosevelt correct in his belief that a strong

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military presence promoted global peace?

President McKinley was reelected in 1900, but his second term was cut short when an assassin shot him in September 1901. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt then became the president. Roosevelt wanted to increase U.S. power. He also accepted some of Anglo-Saxonism's ideas. He believed that the United States had a duty to shape the "less civilized" parts of the Earth.

Balancing Power in East Asia

President Roosevelt supported the Open Door policy in China. He worked to stop any nation from controlling trade there. He helped negotiate an end to a war between Japan and Russia that had begun in 1904. At a 1905 peace conference, Roosevelt talked Russia into recognizing Japan's territorial gains. He also persuaded Japan to stop seeking more territory.

The relationship between the United States and Japan grew worse after the resolution. The two nations each wanted more influence in Asia. But they said they would respect each other's territories, continue the Open Door policy, and support China's independence.

The Panama Canal

Roosevelt believed that displaying U.S. power to the world would keep nations from fighting. He used a West African saying, "Speak softly and carry a big stick," to describe his policy. The policy became known as the "big stick" policy. This policy was seen when the United States built the Panama Canal. Roosevelt and others believed that having a canal through Central America was necessary to U.S. power in the world. He also thought it would save time and money for commercial and military shipping. In 1889, a French company stopped building a canal in Panama. It then offered to sell the rights and the property to the United States. In 1902 Congress agreed to the purchase and to the building of a canal.

Panama was a province of Colombia at that time. In 1903 the United States offered Colombia a lot of money and yearly rent for the right to build the canal. The United States also would control a narrow strip of land on either side of the canal. Colombia refused. **Tension** increased between Colombia and Panamanians. The Panamanians were against Colombian rule. The French were worried that the United States would back out of the offer. The French company met with Panamanian officials and decided to make a deal with the United States. In November 1903, with U.S. warships offshore, Panama revolted against Colombia. Within days, the United States recognized Panama's independence. The two nations signed a treaty allowing the canal to be built.

During the construction, malaria and yellow fever sickened workers and slowed their progress. Malaria and yellow fever are two deadly diseases passed from person to person by mosquitoes. Surgeon General of the Army William Crawford Gorgas helped create an area called the Canal Zone where mosquitoes could not live. His efforts decreased disease and allowed workers to continue building the canal.

The Roosevelt Corollary

By the early 1900s, U.S. officials began to worry about large debts that Latin

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American nations owed European banks. In 1902 Venezuela failed to repay its debts. Britain, Germany, and Italy then blockaded, or closed off, Venezuelan ports. The crisis was resolved peacefully after the United States pushed both sides to reach an agreement. Roosevelt then spoke to Congress. He stated that the United States would become involved with Latin American issues when it was necessary. He thought it was necessary to keep economic and political strength in the Western Hemisphere. This policy became known as the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.

The goal of the Roosevelt Corollary was to keep European nations from using Latin America's debt problems to justify intervening in the region. The United States first used the Roosevelt Corollary in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic was late making its debt payments to European nations. In 1905 the United States Marine Corps began collecting customs taxes in the Dominican Republic.

Dollar Diplomacy

William Howard Taft became president after Roosevelt. He focused less on military force and more on economic development. Taft believed that supporting Latin American industry would increase trade and profits for U.S. business. He also thought it would lift Latin American countries out of poverty and social disorder. His policy came to be called **dollar diplomacy**.

Taft's administration worked to replace European loans with loans from U.S. banks. They did this to give Europeans less reason to become involved with Latin American issues. In 1911 U.S. bankers began making loans to Nicaragua to support its unstable government. The next year, civil unrest forced Nicaragua's president to ask for more help. U.S. marines entered Nicaragua. They replaced the customs collector with an U.S. collector. They also formed a committee to control the customs commissions, or fees. U.S. troops stayed to support the government and customs until 1925.

☒ **PROGRESS CHECK**

Explaining Why was it important for the United States to influence Latin American nations?

Woodrow Wilson's Diplomacy in Mexico

GUIDING QUESTION How did "moral diplomacy" shape President Wilson's foreign policy?

When Woodrow Wilson became president in 1913, he knew that foreign affairs were not his strength. He had written books on state government, Congress, and George Washington. He also wrote about the history of the nation. His experience and interest were in domestic policy. Wilson was a university president before he entered politics. He was also a committed progressive. However, Wilson's time and

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energy as president were spent mostly on foreign affairs.

Wilson opposed imperialism. He believed that democracy was essential to a nation's stability and economic success. He wanted the United States to promote democracy to create a world without rebellion and war. He hoped the United States would lead by moral example, but his first international crisis ruined that hope.

The Mexican Revolution

Porfirio Díaz ruled Mexico as a dictator for more than 30 years. During Díaz's time in power, Mexico became much more industrialized. But foreign investors owned and paid for the new railroads and factories that were built. Most Mexican citizens were poor and did not own land. In 1910 a revolution led by Francisco Madero began. Madero was a reformer who seemed to support democracy, constitutional government, and land reform. Madero, however, was an unskilled leader. Conservative forces plotted against Madero because they were worried about his plans for land reform. In 1913 General Victoriano Huerta took power, and Madero was murdered.

Huerta was a cruel leader. Wilson did not approve of him and refused to recognize the new Mexican government. Instead, Wilson announced a new policy. To win U.S. recognition, groups that seized power in Latin America would have to establish a government based on law, not on force. Wilson believed that without U.S. support Huerta would soon be overthrown. Wilson ordered the navy to stop weapons shipments to Huerta's government and also allowed Americans to give weapons to Huerta's enemies.

Wilson Sends Troops Into Mexico

In April 1914, American sailors visiting the Mexican city of Tampico were arrested after entering a restricted area. They were quickly released, but their U.S. commander demanded an apology. The Mexicans refused. Wilson saw the refusal as a chance to overthrow Huerta. He asked Congress to allow the use of force. Congress agreed, and Wilson soon learned that the crew of a German ship was unloading weapons at the Mexican port of Veracruz. Wilson immediately ordered U.S. warships to Veracruz, and U.S. marines used force to take the city.

The president expected the Mexican people to welcome his action but anti-American riots broke out. Wilson then accepted international mediation to settle the dispute. Venustiano Carranza, whose forces had earlier received U.S. weapons, became Mexico's president.

Mexican forces opposed to Carranza were not satisfied. They made raids into the United States hoping to force Wilson to become involved. In March 1916, Pancho Villa (VEE yuh) and a group of **guerrillas**—armed fighters who carry out surprise attacks—burned the town of Columbus, New Mexico, killing 17 Americans. Wilson responded by sending 6,000 troops under General John J. Pershing across the border to capture Villa. The effort dragged on with no success. Wilson's growing concern over the war in Europe finally caused him to bring back Pershing's troops in 1917.

Wilson's Mexican policy hurt U.S. foreign relations. The British laughed at the president's attempt to force the Mexicans into self-government. Latin Americans thought his "moral imperialism" was no better than Theodore Roosevelt's "big stick" diplomacy. In fact, Wilson followed Roosevelt's example in the Caribbean. In 1914 he negotiated sole rights for naval bases and a canal with Nicaragua. In



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1915 he sent marines into Haiti to end a rebellion. The marines stayed there until 1934. In 1916 he sent troops into the Dominican Republic to keep order and to create government that he hoped would be more stable and democratic than the current one.

☒ **PROGRESS CHECK**

Examining Why did President Wilson's "moral diplomacy" not accomplish its intended purpose?
